RESPONSE QUESTIONS

“‘YOU’LL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED’IS ALWAYS A GREAT WAY TO START”

by Thomas King

Please answer all the following questions as fully as you can. Make sure your answers are clear,

thoughtful, and free from grammatical error. Provide examples from the story to support what you say.

1. What does King mean when he writes “The truth about stories is that that’s all we are” (2)?

2. King introduces his mother by telling a story about her. What does the reader learn about the kind of

person she is through this story? Explain how. What in the story made you think this?

3. What does the reader learn about the world in which she lived? Explain how. What in the story made you think this?

4. King also tells the reader a story about his father. Through this story, what does the reader learn about the kind of person King’s father was? Explain how. What in the story made you think this?

5. What does the reader learn about the relationship between King and his father? Explain how. What in the story made you think this?

6. Explain the irony found in King’s aunt’s search for King’s father. Give an example.

7. What does King mean when he says “stories control our lives” (9)?

8. On page 17 King “interrupts” his story with a comment to the reader. What is the effect of this technique?

9. King writes “contained within creation stories are relationships that help to define the nature of the

universe and how cultures understand the world in which they exist” (10) What does King mean by this?

10. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

11. What does King have to say about using different strategies for different stories (22-23)? Do you agree or disagree?

12. How would you answer the King’s question “Do the stories we tell reflect the world as it truly is” (26)?